## CAMPAGNA ROMANA

The Artists' Paradise, but the Farmers' Inferno.

WHAT IT WAS AND IS

Early and Modern Projects for Its Improvement.

WILL GARIBALDI SUCCEED?

DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT WHICH GARI-BALDI PROPOSES TO RESTORE TO AGRICUL-

TURE. ROME, March 5, 1875. A very paradise is the Roman Campagna, accord ing to the description by artists. A very hell upon earth; a dreary, uninteresting, unhealthy waste, according to the views of the agriculturist, is the land of which we are going to speak. To this artist's paradise and agriculturist's hell the attenthe world is for the moment directed, because its improvement, by means of draining and irrigation, is one of the plans waich Garibaidi has recently submitted to the world. The Campagna, as generally understood, extends on all sides around Rome, including portions of ancient Latium and Etruria, and measures some half a million of acres. Some of the portions further removed from Rome and along the skirts of the mountains are pretty well cultivated; there are towns and villages, and the entire Campagna has a population of 250,000 souls. But the portion to which we shall call attention is the district immediately surrounding Rome, about 250,000 acres in extent, from the mountains along the course of the Tiber to the sea, which is virtually uninhabited, if we except the immediate vicinity of Rome. This. dreary portion of the Campagna is more properly designated the Agro Romano—"agro" being a Latinism signifying the district immediately surrounding a city. Of the 250,000 acres of the Agro Romano perhaps 10,600 are covered with vine. yards, vilias, &c. The rest is pasturage and fields. The whole extent, however, is unhealthy and, so to say, depopulated. Moritz Jokad, the Hungarian novelist, describes in a remarkable manner in one of his shorter stories the conflict of a pestilential swamp with the surrounding culture; now the swamp dragon stretched out arm after arm and finally succeeded in becoming master of the entire district, which had been desolated by war, and man was no longer there to assist culture in preventing its encroaches.

THE LEGEND OF THE DRAGON. In German mythological language the pestilence breeding swamps are very fittingly described as dragons. I have been frequently interested in reading, while in Germany, long and somewhat sensational ancient accounts of the ravages committed by a certain dragon which once dwelt in a long low valley near Lake Starnberg, in Bavaria; how the pestilential breath from his nostrils oisoned the air for miles around, and how at last the horrid monster was finally overcome by some youthful Bavarian Sieg/ried or St. George. in Munich we can see the site of a well wherein the legends tell us once lay a great pestilential-breathed enster of a dragon who caused a plague in the city whereby thousands of lives were lost, until finally, again, the monster was conquered by a valiant young fellow-a cooper's journeyman we are made to believe-and then the ravages of the disease abated. These apparently radiculous old legends contain, however, the truth former legendary dragon of the was simply an immense stagnant swamp, where the pestilence was bred, and the latter monster in the well was impure water that the people were in the habit of drinking, impibing with it, of course, the germs of pestilential disease. If the Roman Campagna had been situated anywhere in Germany we should have had scores of mediaval legends about monsters and dragons lurking in its valleys and morasses and breathing out pestilence upon mankind as a punishment sent from God. But the Campagna has no legends of the sort, so far as I am aware, and in place of the mediaval German monster we have simply the vast

PESTILENCE BREEDING SWAMPS. that poison the air for miles around, and we have no Siegiried or St. George as yet to grapple with them, unless Caribaldi shall add one more legendary attribute to his fame. POETICAL AND PRACTICAL DESCRIPTIONS OF THE

CAMPAGNA. Permit me to give you some descriptions of the Campagna, first seen through the glow of an artiet's glass and then as reflected in the mind of a very practical and common sense Italian writer. Artists, we know, can see beauty where people see nothing at all. remember walking with two talented young American artists in Munich, who suddenly stopped still and fell into ecstastes at a ray of sunlight falling upon the vellow wall of a dilanidated nice sty. The effect of the light and shade was to them indescribably beautiful, but I, a matter-offact, everyday sort of a being, could not for the life of me see more than a very ordinary pigpen. Artisis are apt to exaggerate and to lead us astray by their descriptions, and they have exaggerated the beauty and solemnity and grandeur of the Campagna, taken in its entirety. True, it is in spring time exceedingly beautiful, as are the prairies, because it is covered with fresh grass and myriads of beautiful flowers, and the fra-

grance of the roses buries the effluvia of the

swamns. This is

AN ARTIST'S DESCRIPTION OF THE CAMPAGNA "We look over the Campagna, a still, solitary field of ruins and of graves, close before the gates of the Eternal City. And yet a scene so deeply moving, so grand, so solemn, with here and there beautiful remains of antique structures; then picturesque reed huts, pyramidically built in the torm of old grave tumpli, and as staffage the shenberd in his woody sheepskin, with his long staff upon his shoulders; the herdsman, with pointed hat and leathern gaiters, seated on his swift steed, with his lance flung over his saudle, the fintlack slung over his back; then the blue mountains around, and the wonderful play of coler that spreads over the volcanic, undulating ground; the gold-brown has of the moory steppe, covered with bush and grass, here and there a dark pine, s cypress or an olive tree; destroyed villas of the Imperial era, ruined monuments of the dead sofitary mediaval castles, quiet landhouse: silver gray cattle, with great curving horns, the thick white coated watch dogs, heres of sheep, and goats." The other extreme is taken by writers of a peculiar religious disposition, who "See, is not the Campagna a fitting frame for the picture of flome and the Vatican; Rome is beautifully situated, nevertheless, notwithstanding the fact of the Pope residing therein.

A PROBAIC DESCRIPTION OF THE CAMPAGNA. But what is the true picture of the Agro Romano? It is not a paradise; it is not exactly a hell; but It is a purgatory, a temporary punishment, as it were, for the sins of man. Human negligence, even human warfare against nature, have made the Campagna the desert that it now is. The Agro Romano was not always a vast desert, it was made such by the Romans under the imperial era and by the barbarians who conquered ancient Rome, who destroyed the aqueducts and the forests on the mountains; and their successors have only continued in a slower and equally fatat manthe sins committed centuries ago. The Agro Romano, with the exception of the district immediately surrounding Rome, is unhealthy and aimost entirely depopulated. In the vinejards there are awellings for the peasants, who reside there in winter, but from June to November are compelled by the miasma to retire to the city; the other part has neither peasant dwellings nor peasants, and when cultivated it is done by an invasion of laborers from adjacent provinces, who work there a few months, from October to

again to the mountains. In July but few persons remain in this part of the Campagna proper, and of these few two out of five are sure to be down with lever. Not 2,000 persons remain in the entire cultivable district; even the churches are closed, and the priests seek refuge in Rome. But a small portion of the land is cultivated, the rest is given over to the pasturage of the long horned cattle, which live in a state of semi-wildness. Where cultivation is carried on, the peasants use a plough dating from the time of King Numa, with which they manage to scratch the ground a little; and the yoke-oxen must seek their own provender on the parched steppes, or in summer are fed with rations of bread. The cattle eat up all the young trees, and what they leave the peasant takes pleasure in destroying-a privilege included in his contract. This contract is given only for a period of nine years, and the peasant has no inducement to preserve the woods that still remain. Poultry is as good as unknown, because there are no women to attend to them during the year.
THE ESTATES OF THE AGRO ROMANO.

The part of the Campagna of which we are speaking is at the present divided as follows :-There are 8 estates having an area from 3,000 to 7,400 hectares, 7 from 2,000 to 3,000, 33 from 1,000 to 2,000, 74 from 500 to 1,000, 68 from 300 to 500, 122 from 100 to 300 and 48 of lesser dimensions. More than a fourth of the entire Agro Romano is thus divided into estates of over 2,000 hectares; about one-half is occupied by estates measuring from 500 to 2,000 bectares; the other fourth is in the possession of smaller proprietors. As regards the division of the land in 1870, 60,930 hectares were subject to the law of mortmain and 63,690 to the law of entair; therefore, 124,620 hectares of undisposable property, while the whole area of free property amounted to 79,731 hectares, in the possession of 204 proprietors. (The laws of mortmain estates of the rich and noble proprietors are generally given over to a class of persons called "mercanti di Campagna" (merchant farmers) who cultivate a portion of their farms with grain and sublet the pasturage to other persons. There are some 350 estates comprised in the Agro Romano, which are rented to no more than a hundred of these "mercanti di Campagua," some of them renting two or three or more estates. Only one or two estates are worked their proprietors. The Italian nobles, land owners, have little or no interest for agricultural matters; they are satisfied to receive their rents from the "mercanti," and both care little or nothing for the improvement of the land, each endeavoring to secure as much profit as possible and in the shortest possible time.

THE METHOD OF WORKING THE GREAT ESTATES is very curious. A kind of recruiting sergeant, provided with funds for hand money, is despatched a year before to engage laborers. He collects about him a little army, of which he remains the "caporale" during its term of service. He divides the army into two portions—the first consisting of the able-bodied men, for the harder work, the latter of older men, women and children. . The latter division brings with it a convoy of mules or asserloaded with cooking utensils, implements, and other necessaries. The army is fed by the farmers or the "mercanti" with bad rations, and lives in the tufa caves or in badly constructed huts, sleeping, however, in summer in the open air. In the course of a single season these little armies are sady decimated by fever; many people die and are buried in the dreary wastes; others return home fever-stricken and basten to send other laberer's to fill up their places, since they have made a contract to work the whole season, and if they do not fulfil it they receive no pay. There is a brotherhood in Rome whose mission it is to seek up the sick and even the dead on the Agro Romano, to take the former to hospital in Rome and to bury the dead where they fall. For some years pass the municipality of the city of Rome has appointed six Roman physicians to reside at various points of the Campagna, in order that they may render medical assistance to the suffering. Is not this a melancholy picture? But it approaches pretty nearly the truth. THE SOIL OF THE CAMPAGNA.

This the people-thus the land! A vast stretch of land without human habitation, with the exception of ancient structures and some palaces, where the proprietor may spend a week or two in the spring. The Agro Romano may be divided into three parts. First, the valley of the Tiber, down to the Isola Sacra, in some parts three or four kilometers broad, in some parts narrower. Here we see neither houses nor trees; the wide plain is given up to pasturage, dotted here and there with fields of grain, cultivated, however, in a most miserable manner. Second, a broad stretch of land along the sea, reaching from Civita Vecchia to the Pontine marshes, desertlike, with sand hills; here and there, as in the valley of the Tiber, fields and pasturage, dots of are really nothing but small hills, connected by pretty, fruitful valleys, but-all devastated during the rainy season by torrents which carry away the greater portion of the soil to the bed of the Tiber. The cattle and the peasants and "mercanti" have destroyed nearly the the forest growths on the billsides; cultivable portions are sown with grain, the rest is given over to the herds. The farmers give themselves no trouble to procure egress for the rain water, which forms ponds and lakes and swamps in the valleys, and grasp acre after acre of land with every year. In spring even the most barren portions of the Agro Romano smile in the beauty of flowers, and of the green grass and foliage, but toward the middle of June the grain is ad harvested, the grass is parched up, the lakes have become swamps, and the swamps are covered with slime and emit their polsonous exhalations. The cattle are watered in tanks supplied from the running brooks, but after passing the tanks no further provision is made to carry off the water. which deluges the land, and is left again to form the inevitable swamps. Only on a few estates can exceptions be made to this picture. One or two proprietors have threshing machines in operation and have built stalls for their cattle, and plough the land in a civilized manner, but the estates so managed are only small cases in the midst of the great melancholy desert. THE REASON OF THE DECAY.

And this desert-was it always a desert, breeding ground of pestilence, a hideous frame of run and desolation and decay around the Eternal City? Historians differ in opinion on this point, but the conclusion at which most of them arrive is that the Campagna, though never a place celebrated for its salubrity, was at one time thickly populated, provided with forests, and the pestilential places were few and far between. Many nistorians say that neither in the days of the Republic nor of the Empire was the Campagna subject to malaria, and that this developed after the conquests of the Barbarians. This view apnears to be adopted by Mr. Marsh in his new "man and Nature," which he has edition of kindly sent to me, for he says :- "The unhealthiness of the Roman Campagna is ascribed by many mediavai as well as later writers to the escape of water from the ancient aqueducts, which had fallen out of repair from neglect or been broken down by enemies in the siege of Rome." easy, however, to find proof in the ancient writers that the Roman Campagna was never very healthy. Cicero (de Rep. II., cap. 6) praises Romnius for the good selection he made of a site whereon to found his city, and says :- "Locum in pestilenti regione salubrem, colles enim sunt, qui cum perstantur ipsi, tum et afferunt umbram vallibus," The words

"IN PESTILENTI REGIONE" seem to prove that the neighborhood of Rome was at that time insainbrious. Where Tacitus speaks of the soldiers who came with Vitellius from Germany, he adds that "careless of sanitary regard they fixed their tents in the unhealthy an of the Vatican, and the consequence of which was great mortality," Besides, the ancient Roman erected numerous altars to Goddess Febris, and they certainly would not have done this without some good reason. Strabo speaks of the parts of the Campagna near the sea as not being healthy. But then we have just as many authorities to tell us that the Agro Romano was a very healthy place.

THE VILLA OF PLINY the younger was built not far from Ostia and the

hood of Tivott, and both of these places are at present uninhabitable. Ostia once had a prosperous population, where now a hundred people live or rather die slowly of intermittent fever. Casar took into consideration the practicability of rectifying the course of the Tiber, so as to prevent the continually recorring inundations. The Port of Claudius is at present a swamp. Until the destruction of the many cities that once flourished on the Campagna, the populations of which were gathered to increase the city of Rome we must accept the hypothesis that the Agro Romano was well cultivated, and that swamps were not allowed to develop as they have done in later years; that the forests existed on the mountains and the sacred groves everywhere or the vast plain, and that only small portions of the country of which we are speaking were unhealthy.

THE DECLINE OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE. With the decline of the Roman Empire came the neglect of culture on the Campagna, and the unhealthiness of the country became immensely greater than before. If Petrus Damianus speak truly, when he writes to Pope Nicholas II., in the eleventh century, the condition of Rome was then

Roma verax hominum, domat ardua colla virorum, Roma ferax februum, necis est uherrima (virorum, Romana Roma ferax februm, necis est uberrima frugum, Romanæ febres stabili sunt jure fideles. Quem semel invadunt vix a vivente recedunt.

And since then the condition of the Age Romano and the entire Campagna has not improved, but has become more and more deplora ble, keeping pace with the political decline of the country.

So we came to the conclusion, with the majority of historians, that

THE CAUSE OF THE MALARIA is to be looked for in the presence of the swamps. The swamps are caused by the overflowing of the Tiber on the one part, the inundations of the mountain torrents on the other, both of which phenomena must be attributed primarily to the destruction of the forests on the mountain declivities. Other swamps have been formed, like those of Ostia, and all along the coast, by the the receding of the sea, produced by the annual deposits of the Tiber. The ancient dwellers of the Campagna paid great attention to the swampy places and provided ditches to enable the starwaters to pass off. The successors nant these ancient cultivators did nothing the sort; they folded their arms and saw in calm the swamps increasing in size year by year, and thus do likewise the occupier of the soil at the present time. Garibaldi's plan to remedy the deplorable condition of the Agro Romano is a very good thing in its way, but it does not go back far enough. The torrents will descend and devastate the plains so long as the mountains are not planted with forests, and the stagnant swamps will remain so long as the government does not take the matter in hand and drain them, like the Dutch do their little, undersea-level land, like as Prince Torionia did with Once drained, with government inspectors to keep guard afterward, there cannot be much difficulty in creating a healthy region where now lurk pestilence and death. In another letter I will speak of the projects that have been entertained in former times for improving the condition of the Campagna.

SKETCH OF EARLY AND MODERN PROJECTS FOR ITS IMPROVEMENT-THE PONTIFFS AND THE CAMPAGNA-PLANS OF SCIENTIFIC MEN-SIGNOR PARETA-GENERAL GARTBALDI.

ROME, March 3, 1875. In a previous letter I have attempted to give you some idea of the present condition of the Roman Campagna, or more properly speking of the Agro Romano, and of the causes which produced the deplorable state of things we now see. In this letter I will give a brief account of some of the more important plans and projects enter tained by the various governments to bring about an improvement of the condition of the land and people, and to remove the malaria from the neighborhood of Rome. Nearly every writer of note in Italy has written at one time or another something about the improvement of the Campagna. Pamphlets and projects the subject can be counted by the hundred, but actual experiments very few. And the fact is that before 1870, when the laws of mortmain and of entail prevailed over two-thirds of the estates of the Campagna, it was absolutely impossible for any government to proceed to the work of improvement without first confiscating the land, because in every case neither the nobles nor the clergy, although they might very much have desired to see the condition of the Campagna improved, did not care to spend any money themselves for this end, and the government did not see its way clear in spending millions to benefit a few landed proprietors. The earlier ecclesiastical property of the Campagna now being actually under the control of the government, which stunted forest growth and lakes of stagnant created a commission for its sale and administration, and the great estates of the nobles being no longer subject to the law of entail, there are no obstacles in the way of the government appropriation and improvement.

THE ROMAN PONTIFFS AND THE AGRO ROMANO. The sterility of the Campagna has at various times occupied the attention of the Roman pontiffs, who took certain measures to improve the condition of the land and people, generally, however, with little or no permanent benefit. Their projects were carried out chiefly without apparently looking into the causes of the conditions they sought to ameliorate. Pope Zacharia caused three village colonies to be founded in the Campagna, and his example was followed by Adrian I., but with no success, and these were the only attempts made at colonization during the Middle Ages. In consequence of the increasing sterility of the Campagna, Rome, however, was frequently visited by great scarcity of food, and the popes had no other way of meeting these calamities than by erecting immense storerooms for grain in Rome. These depots were called dell' abundata. The authorities purchased the corn of the Campagna and then sold it again to the bakers and consumers at a fixed price, sometimes low the actual cost. Sixtus IV. adopted during the great famine of 1477, besides the above, also a more radical measure, permitting every person to sow wheat wherever ne chose in the Campagna and other provinces under the dominion of the Church, paying to the proprietor of the land a nominal sum fixed by the State. This measure was taken in order to induce the proprietors to cultivate their lands with grain intead of leaving them for the pasturage of cattle. The proprietors alone secured great benefit from the ordinance, compelling the sowers to sell their crops to them and reselling the grain to Rome at a great increase of price.

ABBITRARY MEASURES. Julius II. (1503-12) caused very stringent laws to be issued, threatening with severe punishment the proprietors who should attempt to hinder the peasants from bringing their grain to Rome. Lec X. made one of the many attempts to drain the Pontine marshes, and some success rewarded his efforts. Clement VII. (1523-33) enforced the regulations issued by Julius II. and Clement VII. and fixed the tribute of grain which the cultivator should pay to the proprietor. He limited the extent of pasturage and ordered that Roman citizens alone should be employed in the culture of the Campagna. But since the Romans had no desire to devote themselves to agriculture, the ordinance proved a failure. Sixtus V. (1585-38) apportioned from his treasury a sum of 200,000 scudi (dollars) to enable the poor peasants of the Campagna to purchase seed corn. The historian Sigismond states that the condition of Rome and the Campagna was never more deplorable than about this time. The people were oppressed with taxes and monopolies, famines were of constant occurrence and the pestilence of 1590 and 1591 carried away 60,000 persons from the city of Rome alone. Many castles and flourishing villages of Umbria were at that time depopulated: the country was infested with brigands, bands of whom were composed of the scape grace members of high families. These maranders were even held in great esteem by the people of the Campagua, who considered them in the light of liberators rather than as outlaws. Sixtus V., indeed, succeeded in freeing the State of the

in greater force than before. PIUS VI. AND NAPOLEON. June, living in caves or in tents, and then retire | magnificent villa of Hadrian was in the neighbor. | Plus VI. attempted much for the improvement

banditti, but under his successors they appeared

of the Campagna. He had exact measurements taken of the estates and compelled the proprietors to cultivate a certain portion every year with grain. He was considering a project for colonizing the northern part of the Agro Romano, by transporting thither 1,900 families, or 9,500 head, at a first cost of some \$2,000,000; but political circumstances prevented him carrying out the plan. He had commenced the draining of the Pontine marshes and had forbidden the further destruction of the forests, when the French invasion put a stop to his efforts in these directions. The French Republic had no time to occupy itself with agriculture, and the laws promuigated by it sequestering ecclesiastical property were never carried into effect. Plus VII. did much for the improvement of Roman agriculture. A motu proprio of 1802 gave the very minutest directions to proprietors in regard to the cultivawas put upon uncultivated lands, and a premium of sixteen awarded to those who cuttivated them. He commanded the planting of trees of all kinds, and had in view the draining of the swamps at a future day. The brief government of Napoleon did not neglect the problem of the Agro Romano, but had the idea of carrying out the ideas of Pius VII. on even a larger scale. Napoleon first put on the budget of the Ministry of the Interior a charge of half a million of francs, allotting the burden of another half million to the city of Rome, intending that these sums should be used for rendering the Tiber navigable from Perugia to the sea, for draining the Campagns and promoting the cultivation of cotton on a territory extending six leagues around the city of Rome He ordered all the proprietors of the Agro Romano to plant trees along the roadside and to construct cottages for their laborers. He appointed a com mittee of experienced men to solve

THE FOLLOWING PROBLEMS:

First—Why the surrounding districts of Rome had been left uncultivated?

Second—Why is the Campagna unhealthy?

Third—What means should be adopted to bring about a good state of cultivation and to remove the unhealthines.

Fourth-How much territory is subject to the inundations of the Tiber ?

Fifth—How much is covered with marshes? Sixth—What is the present state of the Pontine Nixth—What is the present state of the Pontine Marshes?
Seventh—What works are necessary—what works have been started to drain them? What system has been adopted? What is necessary to do?

Eighth—In the progress of draining what kind of cultivation would be best? What products will best thrive on the new soil?

Ninth—What is the present state of agriculture on the Roman Campagna? &c., &c.

THE LABORS OF PIUS IX. A good beginning; but Napolean's career wa too short to enable him to do anything for Rome. His ideas appear to have been excelled, however. Plus Vil., having returned, inaugurated new reforms relative to agriculture, which, however, were repudiated by Leo XII. Neither Plus VIII. nor Gregory XVI. had time or opportunity to give much attention to the condition of the Campagna. Plus IX., however, immediately paid considerable attention to the subject. He established an institution for the teaching of agriculture, and in connection therewith some model farms, but the revolution of 1848 put an end to the plans. In 1854 he appointed a commission to study the question of colonizing the Agro Romano. But the political events that so rapidly followed in Italy entirely prevented any further attention being paid to the subject. It may be said, however, with truth, that the laws existing under the pontiff sovereigns, especially those of mortmain and entail, were the great hindrances to the labors of the various governments.

SCIENTIFIC AND NON-SCIENTIFIC PROPOSALS. This is a record of what the governments of the Roman territory have done. Now we will glance for a moment at some of the principal projects that have been seriously entertained during the last decades. Since persons of nearly every class have written about the improvement of the Agro Romano, the number of pamphlets on the subject is legion. The plans of the Abbé Nicolai, who lived in the eighteenth century, are generally considered to have been the soundest of those entertained in the past century. He proed the draining or filling up of the marshes, the smaller ones by permitting the mountain torrents to de posit their sands in them; the larger ones by the process of pumping, waere outlet canals were not possible. He suggested the building of embankments along the seashore to prevent the reformation of salt water marshes, as soon as the others should be removed. He proposed the planting of trees on the roadsides, the building of houses in villages for laborers at some distance from unhealthy neighborhoods. He proposed to populate these villages by bringing out on the Campagna the vagabonds and idle population of Rome and keeping them under strict surveillance until properly settled. But this idea proved a great delusion. The great trouble was that no benefits were offered to these people, they could not hope to become small farmers even, because the greater part of the land was in the possession of the Church or the nobles, and in neither case could it be sold. (This is now different; both the law of mortmain and of entail were abolished in the Roman territory in 1870.)

PROPOSALS TO COLONIZE sigismondis suggested the building of centres of clonization in various parts of the Campagna, where the people should dwell and make war, as it were, on the surrounding district, conquering and adding acre by acre to their territory. Here, again, the proprietors stood in the way, di Bricherasio proposed to cut several channels for the Tiber through the Campagna for purposes of irrigation draining. Coppi had a wild of a scheme of repopulating the Campagna with orphan children and the idle masses. He would build villages for them even in the midst of mala rious districts, and then place at least one thonsand persons in each, believing that their numpers would in some mysterious manner neutralize the effects of the miasmas. L'Accorambont proposed the purchase of the Campagna by a com pany, which should relet the land to small farmers. All seemed to agree that the aid of the government was necessary to improve the conottion of the Campagna. Before 1870 the laws of mortmain and entail prevented anything being undertaken. These two abnormatities removed. the way is certainly much easier to set about now than ten years ago. In fact, the government could buy up the estates, improve them, parcel them out and clear a handsome profit by the ope ration. A company could do the same thingthat is, if the government gave it full power to buy and appropriate wherever demanded by the public weal.

A MODERN PLAN. I ought to add here the plan of Signor Pareta, published very recently. He urges, as the first thing to be done, the draining of the swamps and stagnant lakes, which, he calculates, would cost a sum of 4,000,000f, for the entire Campagna, not including, however, the Pontine marshes, whose induence, it is supposed, does not stretch as far as Rome. In October, 1870, the Italian government appointed a commission for the purpose of studying the best means for improving the sanitary condition of the Campagna. To this commission belonged Signor Pareta, to whose very interesting account of the Agro Romano I am greatly indebted the information embodied in the present letter. The conclusions arrived at by this commission were embodied in a project it was demanded the State, with the co-operation of the province and the municipality of Rome, should take in hand the draining of the swamps of the Campagna. The two latter should bear half of the expense, the government another part and the landed pro prictors another. Up to the present time the government has taken no steps in the matter. report of Signor Pareta is, however, very interesting and appears very practical.

Signor Pareta rejects all the old plans for abolisning the marsh of Osita, that is by filling up by means of the deposits from the Tiber or by connect ing it with the sea and thus transforming it into a sait water swamp, but proposes the use of steam numos. For the marsh of Osua he thinks a steam engine of eighty-nine horse power would be sufficient. The yearly consumption of coal he estimates at 249 tons; the first exhaustion of the water would require fourteen days, the cost for the work, including the purchase of machines, would be 1,083,4315; the annual expense after-

ward 29,4511. The cost of the recovery of land would be fourteen francs per nectare. The marsh of Maccarese would require a machine of 180 horse power, 500 tons of coal yearly, and fourteen days to its first exhaustion. A sum of 855,641f, would be necessary to cover the first expenses, then an annual expenditure of 50,881f, and twelve francs would cover the cost of each hectare of land thus won. The smaller marshes, swamps, stagnant pools, &c., could be cried in the same way. Prince Torionia has already shown the government what can be done in this direction. In a future letter I will describe his great labor of draining Lake Fu-

THE CULTURE OF THE CAMPAGNA. Signor Pareta then proposes the kind of culture to which the Campagna is best adapted. In the vailey of the Tiber, where the soft is deep and fruitful, agriculture on a large scale. The land could be kept free from stagnant waters, at present left by inundations, by the formation of dikes. The sandy lands on the seashore were best planted with forest. The portions more inland are just as well adapted for cereals as the valley of the Tiber itself. The drainage would not be a very difficult matter, since the water is not deep, and could be removed by levelling the surface of the land. For the hillsides, which are now furrowed and laid bare of soil by the torrents, he proposes the planting of truit trees, or even the culture of the vine, which thrives amazingly around Frascati, where our friend Mr. Strutt has a pleasant summer

Mr. Strutt received at the Vienna Exposition medals for his red and white wines, and his were the only medals received by any wine grower of the Campagna. But Signor Pareta does not expect to change the character of the Campagna in single day, as with a magician's wand. The endden transformation of the entire region would involve, he thinks, a cost of 100,000,000 francs, or 00 francs per acre, and then it would be years before the trees became productive, whereas by a steady, progressive improvement Nature herself would come to the assistance of man, and in fifteen or twenty years the entire Campagna would be a blooming, prosperous stretch of country, and a beautiful frame for the setting of the Eternal City. He condemns the project of attempting to remedy the condition of the Campagna by colonization. It would be, he says, digging a grave for

homestead.

the colonists to send them out there at present. It would be premature to tell you what Garibaldi intends to do with the Campagna just now. His plans are not completed. He has at present only drawn the line on his big map for an irrigating canal from Tivoit to the sea, as shown on the plan already sent you; but this project alone will not suffice to the "benification" of the Agro Romano. The report of the scientific men engaged with Garibaldi to study the subject is expected shortly. and when it appears I will at once forward it to you. Unfortunately the General commences with his great national work too late in life. Born in July, 1807, he is now sixty-eight; but we trust he has twenty years more of life, in order that he may see his great plans accomplished-the Agro Romano a blooming paradise, the Tiber a wellconducted river, bearing on its bosom the wealth of nations to the Italian capital, and Piumicino and Port Trajan filled with the shipping of the world.

JOHN MITCHEL.

THE QUESTION OF THE HOUR-WILL THE SUN-DAY PARADE TAKE PLACE? -- INDIGNATION AMONG TRISHMEN.

The all-absorbing topic of discussion among Irishmen and their sympathizers just now is the recent action of the Board of Police Commissioners with reference to the proposed parade on Sunday afternoon in honor of the memory of the late John Muchel. In every quarter of the city a feeling of strong condemnation of the interference of the police appears to pervade the Celtic heart, and many of the admirers of the deceased express a determination to carry out the programme at all hazards.

The Commissioners, on the other hand, shelter themselves behind the clause of the law under which they claim to act, and evince a like determination, equally as steadlast, to enforce it to the strict letter.

On Thursday afternoon a delegation of prominent Irish citizens waited upon Superintendent Walling, and gave notice, in accordance with law, of the route of the procession on Sunday, Viz. :- Assembling en masse at the Battery, and procceding in a body up Broadway to Twenty-third street, and thence up Fourth avenue to the Hippodrome, where Charles O'Conor would deliver a funeral oration, but were informed by the Superintendent, after consultation with the Commissioners, that the law probibited such parade on Sunday, but that they might have it on any other day of the week.

The existence of such a law seemed to be a sur-

Thus the matter rested until yesterday morning when the following named gentlemen-General Thomas Bourke, Counsellor Reynolds, John Barry, Captain O'Brien, P. Walsh and O'Donovan Rossaconstituting the Mitchel parade delegation, waited upon the Police Commissioners at Headquarters and renewed the petition of the day previous. A long discussion ensued, the Commissioners taking long discussion ensued, the Commissioners taking the ground that they could not, without violation of law, give the desired permission. The committee then put the matter before them in a new light, laying the claim that the proposed procession was properly a faneral one. A body of men intended to march neral one. A body of men intended to march from a given point, orderly and praceably, to an edifice where funeral services were to be reld in commemoration of a deceased comrade. The piace in question, although not ordinarily used as a church, might, with propriety, on an occasion of this nature, be classified in that category. Religious services had been held there quite frequently of late, and no later than a week ago it was used for that purpose. The committee came there and made simply an informal request. They thought that by presenting the case isirly and mily before the Board their formal and official petition, which they would subsequently make, would be granted. be granted.

But the Commissioners were inexorable. They

But the Commissioners were inexorable. They read the law, and neld that it was plain and to the point, and they deemed the present case to be clearly within its provisions.

After some discussion the Commissioners held a consultation, and announced, at its conclusion, that they would take legal advice as to the interpretation of the act, and inform the gentlemen of the result at a later hour. The committee expressed the hope that their final decision would be a favorable one, and after the hour for its rendition had been named to be two o'clock P. M., at the City Hall, the delegation withdrew.

The City Hell was fixed upon as the place of meeting because it would be most convenient for all parties, the Commissioners having, they said, outsiness as a body at that time with the Board of Aldermen.

A communication was at once fent to Corpora-

A communication was at once sont to Corpora-tion Counsel Smith to come to headquarters and that functionary was soon at hand. The entire matter was then gone into, and Mr. Smith ver-bully announced that in his common the proposed parade in honor of the memory of John Mitchel was lifegal and could not be neid.

Promptly at two o'clock the four Police Commis-sioners met the delegates in the City Bull build-ing, and the two bodies proceeded to one of the Aldermanic chambers. Here the Commissioners announced as their ultimatum that the parade could not be had. Messes, Bourke and Rossa then spoke at length, expressing a deep regret that the Board took the action it did.

The interview here terminated, the delegates interview here terminated, the delegates

The interview here terminated, the decision of to disregard it.

A reporter called upon Commissioner Voornis late yesterday attennoon, whom he found alone in his office at Police Headquarters, his colleagues having gone home, and questioned him with regard to the probable action of the Commissioners in case any body of men paraded on Sunday.

"We shalt," said the Commissioner, "enforce the law. Here it stands, The Corporation Counse, has advised the Board as to its proper interpretation. Nothing is left for the Board but to see that it is carried out, and this we propose to do."

The question, therefore, whether the parade will take pince or not, remains in statu quo.

It is an undemable fact that the feeling of deep dissatisfaction and regret is unanimous among our Irish fellow citizens, and it may be, as a prominent frish efficial very earnessity expressed it yesterday while notify denouncing the course of the Police Board, "True Irishmen can't be intimidated from asserting their rights."

The annual convention of the Irish societies representing the Hibernian Temperance and Benevolence organizations, was held last night at the New Hibernia Hall, No. 28 Prince street, Mr. Thomas Berrigan in the chair. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:-Vice President, Henry McGrath; Corresponding Secretary, E. L. Carey; Recording Secretary, Stephen Walsh: Treasurer, Timothy Darcy. Mr. Carey pronounced a culogy upon the late John Mitchel, and stated it was due to the societies represented by their delegates here and to their country that

MEETING OF THE POLICE BOARD.

The Board of Police Commissioners held a meeting yesterday afternoon, at which but little business was transacted. Officer O'Donnell, of the Twenty-first precinct, was dismissed from the force for intoxication. A resolution was adopted that the Committee on Supplies and Repairs advertise in the City Record for proposals to turnish a new boiler for the police boat Seneca and to fit up a new building on Lawrence street for a station house for the Thirtieth precinct.

John Cottrell, Thomas Griffin and John L. Van Wart were appointed patrolinen.

HONORS TO JOHN MITCHEL IN OUTBREC. QUEBEC, Canada, March 26, 1875.

At a meeting of the Irish Catholic Benevolent Society the following resolutions were unantmously adopted :-

That we have learned with profound regret the sorrowin news of the deam of the great and good John Mitchel, whose brilliant though checkered career has been brought to a close while bravely builting for the rights of his oppressor people.

That we feel his less as that of some personal friend dear to. dear to us.

That the ranks of the Irish nationalists lose their most zealous champion and Ireland her benchtest son, whose stay in this lite was eminently marked by uprightness of character and steadhastness of purpose, with the most intense layer of country.

tense love of country.

a copy of the foregoing be transmitted to the of the decreased. The Irish Catholic benevolent societies in various parts of the Provinces are holding meetings and passing resolutions similar to the above.

AID TO MITCHEL'S FAMILY-A GOOD SUGGESTION. NEW YORK, March 25, 1875.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD: The Irish patriot John Mitchel has gone to his everlasting rest. His inneral in Ireland on the 23d inst., attended by an immense concourse of was a political offence, he came

people, is evidence of his great popularity in his native land. An exile for years from his country for what the English government only to the United States, where he resided for some years, after he came from Austraka. The political offence was his devotion and love for Ireland. His family now reside in this country. He recently crossed the ocean and was elected to Parliament upon two occasions in opposition to every power the English government could bring against him, which election audoubtedly was intended to show the devotion of Ireland to her patriotic men and country, for John Mitchel would never have taken the oath of allegiance to the Crown of England in order to enter Parliament. While agreeing mainly with the HERALD that it would be well for every person interested to contribute \$1 to the widow of Joan Mitchel, I respectfully submit there widow of John Mitchel, I respectfully such a better opportunity has been offered to the frish people as citizens of this country to show their appreciation of the public men of their mative land, their patriotism and love of country, than by an immense demonstration or a public funeral on next Sunday, John Mitchell was devoted to his country—a gentleman of refined culture, an accomplished and elegant writer. He went to his country—a igenteman of refined culture, an accomplished and elegant writer. He went to Ireland, and with enfeebled health has fallen in the front of the battle. He lies buried in his native land, which he loved so well, the place for the patriot to die. Away from his family, he died among friends. It is the poetry of politics and the religion of patriotism. I would respectfully submit that a committee should be appointed to receive such contributions as each individual is disposed to give for the benefit of receive such contributions as each individual is disposed to give for the benefit of Mrs. Mitchell as the funeral procession is moving. Such contributions to be deposited at such points as the committee duly appointed may direct, a notice of which should be published in the Herall and city papers generally. I would further suggest, as the Hippodrome has been selected as the place where an oration is to be delivered, that it would be the most proper place to receive, at each entrance, such contributions as the people are willing to bestow for the benefit of the widow of John Mitchel, to be used by her as she may deem proper. used by her as she may deem proper.

JOHN BROSNAN, No. 143 Fuiton street.

COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION.

A REVIEW OF OUR FOREIGN TRADE FOR 1874. Monthly Report No. 6 of the Bureau of Statistics is in press. it contains the statistics of our foreign trade for the month ended December 31, 1874, and for the calendar year 1874, compared with the corresponding periods of 1873. The Chief of the Rucean jurnishes the following synopsis:-

Periods.	Imports.	Exports (Specie Values).	Exports.
Mouth ended Decem- ber 31, 18,4	\$35,967,003	\$68,024,896	\$1,633,731
Month ended Decem-	35,653,848	62,413,437	1,725,521
December 31, 1871	577,369,711	620,473,735	21,125,893
December 31, 1873.	634,907,487	606,381,988	24,968,204

twelve months ended December 31, 1874 and 1873. the following values consisted of merchandise and of specie and bullion, respectively :-

		Imports.	Exports (Specie Values).	Foreign Exports
Merchandise Specie and bul-	1871	\$362,115,907 15,233,804		\$15,943,211 6,182,682
Merchan itse Specie and bul- tion	1873	THE RESERVE AND ADDRESS.	550,098,492	17,669,375 7,308,829

the warehouses of the United States December 31. 1874, was \$43,804,512, against \$62,064,032, December The following is an analysis of the imports for

31, 1873

	1873.	1874.
Total subject to duty	171,510,413	\$403,039,850 174,329,861
Entered for immediate consump- tion Entered for warehouse	415,961,222 200,842,911	
Entered for immediate transpor-	8,194,334	6,889,097

	Imports.	Domestic Exports (Mixed Values).	Foreign Exports
mer'n vessels oreign vessels and vehicles mer'n vessels oreign vessels and vehicles	\$171,165,717 542,631,737 11,572,257 168,332,635 441,534,465		\$5,615,768 10,726,753 2,780,375 8,681,171 11,348,031 1,138,10

Number and tonnage of vessels engaged in the foreign trade which entered into and cleared from the ports of the United States during the calendar years 1874 and 1873;—

	Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
American vessels. ; 1874 !	11,765 18,791	3,717,479 8,957,210	11,89± 19.08	3,808,203 8,963,827
Totals		12,660,681 3,796,122 8,688,092		
Totale				

This report contains the statistics of immigra-tion for the quarter ending December 31, 1874, and also for the calendar year 1874. The total number of immigrants who arrived in The total number of immigrants who arrived in the United states during the tweive months ended December 31, 1874, was 280,814, of whom 19,956 were makes and 100,878 females. Under fifteen years, 51,691; fifteen, and under forty, 172,118; forty years of age and upward, 37,016; died on the voyage, 128, or the total arrivals there were from England, 43,366; freiand, 47,685; Germany, 50,937; Quobec and Ontario, 23,744; balance from 144 other countries.

tries.
Immigrants having professional occupations, 2,465; skilled occupations, 32,482; miscellaneous occupations, 101,318; not stated and without occupation, mainly women and children, 124,449.
This report also contains, in 24dition to other miscellaneous matter not herein referred to, a detailed statement of the imports and exports of the United Eingdom for the calendar year 1874.

THE NANUET MURDER.

A decision upon the bill of exceptions filed in the case of Michael Murpay, a laborer, of Jersey City, who was convicted of murder in the first degree for shooting Mrs. Hujus, at Nanuet, in Rockland county, on the 19th of April, 1874, will Bockland county, on the 19th of April, 18-3, which be given by the Supreme Court, General Term, in Broeklyn, next Tuescay. Murphy, it may be temembered, was sentenced to death, after being found guity in the Rockland county Court of Oyer and Terminer, held as New City a few months since. Pending the execution of the sentence a writ of error was obtained, and a stay of proceedings was granted by Judge Donobue on a motion for a new trail.